

Entangled Markov Chains generated by Symmetric Channels

Takayuki Miyadera ¹

Abstract: A notion of entangled Markov chain was introduced by Accardi and Fidaleo in the context of quantum random walk. They proved that, in the finite dimensional case, the corresponding states have vanishing entropy density, but they did not prove that they are entangled.

In the present note this entropy result is extended to the infinite dimensional case under the assumption of finite speed of hopping.

Then the entanglement problem is discussed for spin $1/2$, entangled Markov chains generated by a binary symmetric channel with hopping probability $1 - q$. The von Neumann entropy of these states, restricted on a sublattice is explicitly calculated and shown to be independent of the size of the sublattice. This is a new, purely quantum, phenomenon.

Finally the entanglement property between the sublattices $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\{N + 1\})$ is investigated using the PPT criterium. It turns out that, for $q \neq 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}$ the states are non separable, thus truly entangled, while for $q = 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}$, they are separable.

1 Introduction

Motivated by recent developments in quantum information theory, Accardi and Fidaleo introduced a Markov chain, called “entangled”, and including a quantum version of classical random walks [1]. They consider a quantum spin chain and impose the following conditions on its state.

- (i) It should be a quantum Markov chain [2].
- (ii) It should be purely generated [3].
- (iii) Its restriction on at least one maximal Abelian subalgebra, should be a classical random walk.
- (iv) It should be uniquely determined, up to arbitrary phases, by its classical restriction.

In order to fix the notations, let us briefly review their definition.

¹Research Center for Information Security, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST),
Daibiru building 1102, Sotokanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0021, Japan
e-mail: miyadera-takayuki@aist.go.jp

A one-sided (or two sided) infinite quantum spin chain is defined by a 1-dimensional lattice, which in our case will be \mathbf{N} (or \mathbf{Z}). On each site of the lattice there is a spin degree of freedom.

Its observables are represented by the algebra $\mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$, of all the bounded operators on some separable Hilbert space \mathcal{H} . Typically (but not for random walks) its dimension is finite (say $d < \infty$). In this case $\mathbf{B}(\mathcal{H})$ is a $d \times d$ matrix algebra, $\mathcal{A}(\{x\}) \simeq M_d(\mathbf{C})(x \in \mathbf{N} \text{ (or } \mathbf{Z}))$. For each finite region Λ in \mathbf{N} (or \mathbf{Z}), algebra of observables with respect to Λ is defined by $\mathcal{A}(\Lambda) := \otimes_{x \in \Lambda} \mathcal{A}(\{x\})$. The total algebra of observables is defined as the closure of their union,

$$\mathcal{A} := \overline{\cup_{\Lambda} \mathcal{A}(\Lambda)}^{\|\cdot\|},$$

where the closure is taken with respect to norm topology.

On this chain we consider a class of states defined as follows. First we will consider the case of one-sided chain (defined on \mathbf{N}). Then the state is extended to the two-sided chain by imposing translation invariance.

To define an *entangled Markov state* [1], we begin with its finite volume version. Suppose there exist a probability distribution $\{P(i)\}_{i \in \Omega}$ on a set Ω whose cardinality is same as the dimension of \mathcal{H} , and a transition probability $\{P(i \rightarrow j)\}_{(i,j) \in \Omega \times \Omega}$ from Ω to itself. We define a vector in $\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{H} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathcal{H}$ ($N+1$ -times) by

$$|\Psi_N\rangle := \sum \sqrt{P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1)P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \cdots P(i_{N-1} \rightarrow i_N)} |i_0 i_1 \cdots i_N\rangle,$$

where $\{|i\rangle\}$ is an orthonormal basis in \mathcal{H} and $|i_0 i_1 \cdots i_N\rangle := |i_0\rangle \otimes |i_1\rangle \otimes \cdots \otimes |i_N\rangle$. It is easily checked that the norm of this vector is 1 and therefore it defines a state over $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$ by

$$\omega_N(\cdot) := \langle \Psi_N | \cdot | \Psi_N \rangle.$$

Accardi and Fidaleo has shown that the infinite volume limit

$$\omega(\cdot) := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \omega_N(\cdot),$$

exists and defines a state on \mathcal{A} which is a quantum Markov chain in the sense of [2]. The states in this class of quantum Markov chains are called *entangled Markov states*. In the infinite dimensional case ($\dim \mathcal{H} = \infty$) a sub-class of these entangled states can be regarded as a quantum version of the classical random walks. The finite dimensional case ($\mathcal{H} = \mathbf{C}^d$) is also interesting in the context of statistical mechanics of spin chains.

In this note we estimate the entropy density of such states when the dimension of \mathcal{H} is infinite.

In the case $d = 2$ and under the assumption that its generating classical transition probability is symmetric and stationary, we explicitly compute the entropy of finite sub-lattices. Finally its entanglement property is examined.

2 Entropy Density

In this section we consider a one-sided spin chain and entangled Markov states over it. To estimate entropy of a finite sublattice, we compute the restriction of the chain on $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$. It is easy to verify that the coefficients, in the given basis, of the density matrix of the chain, localized on $\{0, 1, \dots, N\}$, are:

$$\begin{aligned} (\rho_N)_{i_0 i_1 \dots i_N, j_0 j_1 \dots j_N} &:= \omega(|i_0 i_1 \dots i_N\rangle \langle j_0 j_1 \dots j_N| \otimes \mathbf{1}) \\ &= \sum \sqrt{P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1)P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \dots P(i_{N-1} \rightarrow i_N)P(i_N \rightarrow i)} \\ &\quad \sqrt{P(j_0)P(j_0 \rightarrow j_1)P(j_1 \rightarrow j_2) \dots P(j_{N-1} \rightarrow j_N)P(j_N \rightarrow i)}. \end{aligned}$$

The following theorem is easy to prove.

Theorem 1 *The restriction of an entangled Markov state on the Abelian subalgebra \mathcal{M} , generated by the matrices which are diagonal in the given basis, gives a classical Markov chain. If such a classical chain is stationary (i.e., if $\sum P(i)P(i \rightarrow j) = P(j)$ is satisfied for each j) its Shannon entropy density is (see e.g. [5]) $-\sum_i P(i) \sum_j P(i \rightarrow j) \log P(i \rightarrow j)$.*

To estimate the von Neumann entropy of the density matrix ρ_N , the following lemma is crucial.

Lemma 2 *For an arbitrary $N \in \mathbb{N}$ and for any $A \in \mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$,*

$$\omega(A) = \langle \Psi^{N+1} | A | \Psi^{N+1} \rangle$$

holds. That is, for strictly local operator, taking into account one additional site is sufficient.

Proof: For sufficiently large M , $\langle \Psi_M | A | \Psi_M \rangle$ can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle \Psi_M | A | \Psi_M \rangle \\ &= \sum \sqrt{P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1)P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \dots P(i_{N-1} \rightarrow i_N)P(i_N \rightarrow i_{N+1})} \\ &\quad \sqrt{P(j_0)P(j_0 \rightarrow j_1)P(j_1 \rightarrow j_2) \dots P(j_{N-1} \rightarrow j_N)P(j_N \rightarrow i_{N+1})} \\ &\quad P(i_{N+1} \rightarrow i_{N+2}) \dots P(i_{M-1} \rightarrow i_M) \langle i_0 i_1 \dots i_N | A | j_0 j_1 \dots j_N \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

Thanks to $\sum_{i_l} P(i_{l-1} \rightarrow i_l) = 1$, it does not depend on M as soon as $M \geq N + 1$. Q.E.D.

Thus the following theorem holds.

Theorem 3 *Suppose the dimension d of Hilbert space \mathcal{H} is finite. For any $N \in \mathbb{N}$, von Neumann entropy of ρ_N satisfies*

$$S_{vN}(\rho_N) := -\text{tr}(\rho_N \log \rho_N) \leq \log d.$$

Proof: The previous lemma means that

$$\rho_N = \text{tr}_{N+1} (|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|)$$

holds. If we put $\sigma_{N+1} := \text{tr}_{0,1,\dots,N} (|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|)$, according to Schmidt decomposition theorem[6], the purity of $|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|$ implies that the eigenvalues of ρ_N coincide with ones of σ_{N+1} , and

$$S_{vN}(\rho_N) = S_{vN}(\sigma_{N+1})$$

holds. Since σ_{N+1} is a state on \mathbf{C}^d , its von Neumann entropy is bounded from above by $\log d$. Thus we can conclude that for any N ,

$$S_{vN}(\rho_N) \leq \log d$$

holds.

Q.E.D.

This allows to simplify the proof of the following result, obtained in [1].

Proposition 4 *For finite d , any entangled Markov state has vanishing mean von Neumann entropy.*

Remark 5 *It is known [3] that the vanishing of the mean entropy is not equivalent to the purity of the state. For instance in the case $d = 2$, $P(0) = P(1) = 1$ and $P(0 \rightarrow 0) = P(1 \rightarrow 1) = 1$, the resulting state is an equal mixture of the two pure states, $|000\dots\rangle\langle\dots 000|$ and $|111\dots\rangle\langle\dots 111|$.*

For the infinite dimensional case we obtain the following result. Consider the case $\Omega = \mathbf{Z}$, which includes a quantum version of the classical random walks on a lattice.

Theorem 3 cannot be directly applied and in fact even for single site its von Neumann entropy can be infinite [4]. We, however, are interested in the case when initially the distribution is localized and it gradually expands to its neighbours. That is, typically the initial distribution $P(\cdot)$ has a compact support, say $\Lambda \subset \mathbf{Z}$. Moreover, the speed of hopping should be finite. That is, there exists $V < \infty$ such that for all $i \in \mathbf{Z}$,

$$\max\{|c| : P(i \rightarrow i + c) \neq 0\} \leq V$$

holds. Under these conditions, the following theorem holds.

Theorem 6 *For localized initial distributions and finite hopping range V , the von Neumann entropy of ρ_N is bounded from above as follows:*

$$S_{vN}(\rho_N) \leq \log (|\Lambda| + 2V(N + 1)).$$

Proof: The range of summation for

$$|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle := \sum \sqrt{P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1)P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \cdots P(i_N \rightarrow i_{N+1})} |i_0, i_1, \dots, i_{N+1}\rangle,$$

can be finite. As in the theorem 3, density operators $\text{tr}_{N+1}|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|$ and $\text{tr}_{0,1,\dots,N}(|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|)$ show the same value of von Neumann entropy. Since

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}_{0,1,\dots,N}(|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle\langle\Psi_{N+1}|) &= \sum_{i_{N+1}} \sum_{j_{N+1}} \sum_{i_N} \tilde{P}(i_N) \\ &\quad \sqrt{P(i_N \rightarrow i_{N+1})} \sqrt{P(i_N \rightarrow j_{N+1})} |i_{N+1}\rangle\langle j_{N+1}|, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

holds, where $\tilde{P}(i_N)$ is defined as

$$\tilde{P}(i_N) := \sum P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1)P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \cdots P(i_{N-1} \rightarrow i_N).$$

The summation for i_{N+1} and j_{N+1} in (1) runs over finite range whose cardinality is bounded by $|\Lambda| + 2V(N+1)$. Q.E.D.

Thus we obtain the following.

Theorem 7 *The von Neumann entropy density of an entangled Markov chain, with localized initial distributions and finite hopping range V , vanishes.*

3 $d = 2$: Symmetric case

In this section we analyze the simplest example of entangled Markov state, namely the case $d = 2$ with symmetric transition probability. That is, the state is generated by a channel:

$$\begin{aligned} P(0 \rightarrow 0) &= q \\ P(1 \rightarrow 1) &= q, \end{aligned}$$

where $0 \leq q \leq 1$ holds. We, in addition, assume stationarity and thus for $q \neq 0, 1$,

$$P(0) = P(1) = \frac{1}{2} \quad (2)$$

must hold. For simplicity, also for $q = 0, 1$, we assume (2) holds. In this case Lemma 2 enables us to diagonalize the state ρ_N for arbitrary N as shown by the following theorem.

Theorem 8 *For $q \neq \frac{1}{2}$, there are only two nonvanishing eigenvalues for ρ_N , and they are*

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_+ &:= \frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{q(1-q)} \\ \lambda_- &:= \frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{q(1-q)}. \end{aligned}$$

Their corresponding eigenvectors are respectively,

$$|\Psi_N^\pm\rangle := \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{q(1-q)}}} \sum_{i_0 \dots i_N} \left(\sqrt{1-q} \right)^{\sum_{\alpha=1}^N (i_{\alpha-1} \oplus i_\alpha)} (\sqrt{q})^{N - \sum_{\alpha=1}^N (i_{\alpha-1} \oplus i_\alpha)} \\ \left(\sqrt{(1-q)^{i_N} q^{1-i_N}} \pm \sqrt{(1-q)^{1-i_N} q^{i_N}} \right) |i_0 i_1 \dots i_N\rangle,$$

where \oplus means summation with mod 2 (XOR operation). (0 is its eigenvalue with $2^{N+1}-2$ multiplicity.) For $q = \frac{1}{2}$, ρ_N is a pure state over $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$.

Proof: By lemma 2, ρ_N is equal to $\rho_N = \text{tr}_{N+1} |\Psi_{N+1}\rangle \langle \Psi_{N+1}|$. This fact and Schmidt decomposition theorem [6] shows that $|\psi_{N+1}\rangle$ can be expressed as

$$|\Psi_{N+1}\rangle = \sum_l \sqrt{\lambda_l} |\Psi_N^l\rangle \otimes |e_l\rangle,$$

where $\lambda_l (l = \pm)$ are the common eigenvalues of ρ_N and $\sigma_{N+1} := \text{tr}_{1,2,\dots,N} |\Psi_{N+1}\rangle \langle \Psi_{N+1}|$ and $\{|e_l\rangle\}$'s are the eigenvectors of σ_{N+1} . Thus to obtain λ_l and $|\Psi_N^l\rangle$, we should first diagonalize the 2×2 matrix σ_{N+1} which can be easily computed to be:

$$\sigma_{N+1} = \frac{1}{2} (|0\rangle \langle 0| + |1\rangle \langle 1|) + \sqrt{q(1-q)} (|0\rangle \langle 1| + |1\rangle \langle 0|).$$

Its eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_\pm = \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{q(1-q)}$$

and the corresponding eigenvectors are

$$|e_\pm\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle \pm |1\rangle).$$

The vectors $\sqrt{\lambda_\pm} |\Psi_N^\pm\rangle \otimes |e_\pm\rangle$ are obtained by applying $\mathbf{1} \otimes |e_\pm\rangle \langle e_\pm|$ to $|\psi_{N+1}\rangle$. This gives:

$$|\Psi_N^\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{q(1-q)}}} \sum_{i_0 \dots i_N} \sqrt{P(i_0)P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1) \dots P(i_{N-1} i_N)} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\sqrt{P(i_N \rightarrow 0)} \pm \sqrt{P(i_N \rightarrow 1)} \right) |i_0 \dots i_N\rangle,$$

which is directly deformed into the desired form.

In case of $q = \frac{1}{2}$, one of the above eigenvalues λ_- vanishes and ρ_N is shown to be pure. Q.E.D.

In view of the above theorem and the Schmidt decomposition theorem[6], the following theorem is obvious.

Theorem 9 For $q \neq \frac{1}{2}$, von Neumann entropy of ρ_N for any $N \in \mathbf{N}$ is

$$\begin{aligned} S_{vN}(\rho_N) = S_{vN}(\sigma_{N+1}) &= - \left(\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{q(1-q)} \right) \log \left(\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{q(1-q)} \right) \\ &\quad - \left(\frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{q(1-q)} \right) \log \left(\frac{1}{2} - \sqrt{q(1-q)} \right). \end{aligned}$$

For $q = \frac{1}{2}$, $S_{vN}(\rho_N) = 0$ for any $N \in \mathbf{N}$.

Remark 10 It is not difficult to verify that the above technique can be used for a general (non symmetric) channel with $d = 2$.

Now we investigate the entanglement property of the states. Let us consider an entangled Markov state generated by a symmetric channel and its restriction to sublattice $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N, N+1\})$ which is written as ρ_{N+1} in a density matrix. If we divide the sublattice $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N, N+1\})$ into $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\{N+1\})$, is the state ρ_{N+1} separable or entangled between them? The following theorem gives the answer.

Theorem 11 For $q \neq 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}$, the above defined ρ_{N+1} is entangled (i.e., inseparable) between $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\{N+1\})$. For $q = 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}$, ρ_{N+1} is separable.

Proof: Let us consider the two dimensional subspace spanned by $|\Psi_N^+\rangle$ and $|\Psi_N^-\rangle$. and its (normalized but not orthogonal) basis:

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi_N(0)\rangle &:= \sqrt{\lambda_+} |\Psi_N^+\rangle + \sqrt{\lambda_-} |\Psi_N^-\rangle \\ &= \sum_{i_0 \dots i_N} \sqrt{P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1) P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \dots P(i_N \rightarrow 0)} |i_0 i_1 \dots i_N\rangle \\ |\Phi_N(1)\rangle &:= \sqrt{\lambda_+} |\Psi_N^+\rangle - \sqrt{\lambda_-} |\Psi_N^-\rangle \\ &= \sum_{i_0 \dots i_N} \sqrt{P(i_0 \rightarrow i_1) P(i_1 \rightarrow i_2) \dots P(i_N \rightarrow 1)} |i_0 i_1 \dots i_N\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that the following relations hold,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Phi_N(0) | \Phi_N(0) \rangle &= \langle \Phi_N(1) | \Phi_N(1) \rangle = 1 \\ \langle \Phi_N(0) | \Phi_N(1) \rangle &= \lambda_+ - \lambda_-. \end{aligned}$$

The expansion of $|\Psi_{N+1}^\pm\rangle$ in this basis is:

$$|\Psi_{N+1}^\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\lambda_\pm}} \left(\sqrt{q} \pm \sqrt{1-q} \right) (|\Phi_N(0)\rangle \otimes |0\rangle \pm |\Phi_N(1)\rangle \otimes |1\rangle).$$

Therefore the density matrix ρ_{N+1} can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{N+1} &= \lambda_+ |\Psi_{N+1}^+\rangle \langle \Psi_{N+1}^+| + \lambda_- |\Psi_{N+1}^-\rangle \langle \Psi_{N+1}^-| \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (|\Phi_N(0)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(0)| \otimes |0\rangle \langle 0| + |\Phi_N(1)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(1)| \otimes |1\rangle \langle 1|) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_+ - \lambda_-}{2} (|\Phi_N(0)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(1)| \otimes |0\rangle \langle 1| + |\Phi_N(1)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(0)| \otimes |1\rangle \langle 0|)\end{aligned}$$

Since it can be identified with a matrix in $\mathbf{C}^2 \otimes \mathbf{C}^2$, the PPT (positive partial transpose) criterion of [7, 8] can be used to check its separability [9]. According to this criterion ρ_{N+1} is separable if and only if the partially transposed matrix

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{N+1}^{PT} &:= \frac{1}{2} (|\Phi_N(0)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(0)| \otimes |0\rangle \langle 0| + |\Phi_N(1)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(1)| \otimes |1\rangle \langle 1|) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_+ - \lambda_-}{2} (|\Phi_N(0)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(1)| \otimes |1\rangle \langle 0| + |\Phi_N(1)\rangle \langle \Phi_N(0)| \otimes |0\rangle \langle 1|).\end{aligned}$$

is still positive. Let us prove that, in the present case, ρ_{N+1}^{PT} is not positive in general. In fact, computing $\langle \varphi | \rho_{N+1}^{PT} | \varphi \rangle$ where φ is the normalized vector:

$$|\varphi\rangle := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\Phi_N(1)\rangle \otimes |0\rangle - |\Phi_N(0)\rangle \otimes |1\rangle)$$

gives

$$\langle \varphi | \rho_{N+1}^{PT} | \varphi \rangle = 2\sqrt{q(1-q)} \left(\sqrt{q(1-q)} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

which is negative when $q \neq 0, 1, \frac{1}{2}$. Thus we can conclude that ρ_{N+1} is an entangled state between $\mathcal{A}(\{0, 1, \dots, N\})$ and $\mathcal{A}(\{N+1\})$.

For $q = \frac{1}{2}$, by the previous lemma it is easily seen that ρ_{N+1} is just a product state of pure states.

For $q = 1$, a straightforward calculation shows that ρ_{N+1} has the form,

$$\rho_{N+1} = \frac{1}{2} (|00 \dots 00\rangle \langle 00 \dots 00| + |11 \dots 11\rangle \langle 11 \dots 11|)$$

which is obviously separable.

For $q = 0$, ρ_{N+1} can be written as,

$$\rho_{N+1} = \frac{1}{2} (|01 \dots 01\rangle \langle 01 \dots 01| + |10 \dots 10\rangle \langle 10 \dots 10|)$$

(here we assumed N is odd). It also is obviously separable.

Q.E.D.

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